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Supinski Leaves a UAPI Pantry Fully Stocked

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Stan Supinski has cooked up a different path for his future.

The director of partnership programs at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security is leaving his position with the Center June 30. Supinski is leaving CHDS to attend culinary school.

"This is not a career move," Supinski said from his Colorado Springs, Colo., office. "I've always enjoyed cooking. Life is short, so I thought I might as well do this now before I look back and say, 'it's too late.'"

In addition to teaching courses in the CHDS Master's program, Supinski's mission in his role as partnership director was to expand homeland security education through CHDS' University and Agency Partnership Program (UAPI). He leaves a UAPI pantry fully stocked with more than 275 schools that have shared CHDS curriculum to build their own homeland security and related programs.



"I think with UAPI, we can take a lot of credit for launching the academic discipline of homeland security," Supinski said. "UAPI created a mother ship of sorts that people could look to for cooperation and for support. We made it a lot easier for schools to develop academic programs."

During his seven-year tenure with the Initiative, he personally visited more than 200 institutions in the U.S. and Canada, and has been often referred to as "the father of homeland security education."

That was the idea behind the program – multiply the number of homeland security students across the country by sharing, free of charge, the cutting-edge curriculum developed at CHDS with academic partner institutions.

"By aiding schools to develop their programs, the number of people who are being educated has grown to meet the demand, which we as an institution could not possibly do by ourselves," Supinski noted. "While CHDS touches hundreds of students in our classes, through our UAPI partners we reach tens of thousands."

UAPI reinforces its mission by supporting schools and agencies thorough New Member Workshops, Homeland Defense and Security Education Summits, and Faculty Development Workshops. The program expanded into the international realm when it hosted representatives from Canada and Mexico as part of the Continental Security Conference in 2010. Earlier this month UAPI hosted a conference along with the Emergency Management Institute that included representatives from those two countries and many other nations. Additionally, results from Model Curriculum Conferences hosted by UAPI have become benchmarks for program development throughout the homeland security education community.

Supinski said the discipline is here to stay, and that it will evolve to meet the nation's needs. Programs have adapted to the shift from a terrorism emphasis to an all-hazards approach and strong links have been established with those that offered emergency management education. Cyber-security is and will remain a crucial subject, and most programs now have or will include a component in this key area, he said, adding that UAPI is working with more international partners on that issue. Another topic that could use more expertise is in the comparative government

area. Supinski lauded fellow faculty member Nadav Morag's work at CHDS in this realm, but believes more attention to that subject is needed in the academic community.

"There are not enough instructors to teach that kind of course," Supinski observed. "The expertise isn't out there. Hopefully future UAPI faculty development workshops can help."

The discipline remains relevant as industry professionals, scholars and elected officials grapple with ongoing complexities from the onslaught of policy changes that have emerged in the years following 9/11.

"What makes it unique is that it is a compilation of so many disciplines," Supinski said. "The crux of homeland security is communication across disciplines. When people ask what homeland security is I tell them that basically it is communication involving the broad variety of things we have to do and people we have to know to realize our security."

For now, Supinski is entering the next course of his life and will attend the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts at its Boulder, Colo., campus, to perfect what has been a favorite hobby for years. He will remain a member of the homeland security community and will continue as an associate professor at Long Island University.

"I have no intention of completely changing careers," he said. "I just want to get better at cooking."

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